

REMARKS

Claims 3-18 were pending and under consideration.

In the FINAL Office Action of May 21, 2003, claims 3-4 and 12-18 were rejected and claims 5-11 were objected to.

In response, claims 5 and 18 have been amended and claims 19 and 20 have been added.

A. 102 (b) Rejection:

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,162,264). The Examiner has essentially alleged that Miyazaki et al. teaches what is disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

The present invention is directed to provide a method of manufacturing a battery capable of enhancing productivity and preventing deterioration of the battery performance. In the present invention method of manufacturing a battery, a terminal is attached to at least one face of either a positive electrode or a negative electrode, and an electrolyte layer is formed on one face of either the positive electrode or negative electrode to which the terminal is attached. This decreases the number of manufacturing process after forming the electrolyte layer on the electrodes. The benefit of this method prevents solvents in the electrolyte to evaporate and the electrolyte layer is absorbed in the water. Consequently, this increases both the manufacturing yield and discharge capabilities of the battery. Furthermore, the battery's voltage is stabilized.

Claim 18 recites A method of manufacturing a battery comprising of: forming an electrode mixture layer including electrode active material on a first region but not on an exposed region of the electrode collector; and attaching a terminal to the exposed region, wherein the electrode mixture layer is not formed on the exposed region between the attaching of the terminal and the forming of the electrode mixture layer.

This is clearly unlike Miyazaki et al., which fails to disclose or even suggest attaching the terminal to the exposed region. Miyazaki et al. discloses a process of producing an electrode plate by peeling a portion of an active material layer. As an example, referring to Miyazaki et al's Figures 8 and 9, Miyazaki et al. discloses terminals (7) that are attached to an active layer material (2) which is formed on top of a collector layer (1) that is peeled off which then a pressure heating body (9) is introduced.

Thus, unlike Applicants' claim 18, Miyazaki et al. fails to disclose or even suggests a process that attaches a terminal to the exposed region which decrease the number of manufacturing steps and prevents the solvents in the electrolyte to evaporate and thus increase the capacity of the battery. Accordingly, Miyazaki et al. fails to disclose or even suggest Applicants' claim 18.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

B. 103 (a) Rejections:

Claims 3, 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Akahira (U.S. Patent No.: 6,387,562). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Kaido et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,314,638). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Common Ownership:

All rights and title to the present application and Akahira, were, at the time the invention was made, owned by Sony Corporation or subject to an obligation to assignment to Sony Corporation.

Accordingly, Akahira is disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the claims of the present Application.

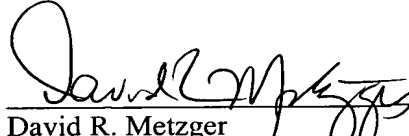
Because claims 4 and 12 depend from claim 18, they include all the limitations of claim 18. Because claims 13-17 depend from claim 12, they include all the limitations of claim 12. Applicants' claims 4, 12-17 are allowable over Miyazaki et al. as discussed above. Thus, Applicants' invention is not render unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time when the invention was made to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner to derive any of the claims 4, 12-18 and Applicants respectfully submit this rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejections have been overcome and request that they be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims 4-18 are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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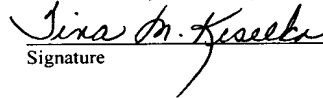
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